

(c) the details of comparative cost of spraying the target population area with BHC and the selected substitute;

(d) the total additional cost outlay on Malaria Control Programme due to switch over to substitute insecticide; and

(c) whether the additional cost is justified in comparison with the risk involved in the continued use of BHC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Benzene Hexa Chloride (BHC) is a potential environmental pollutant due to which its continued use as an insecticide has been banned after 31st March, 1997.

The alternative insecticide under the Public Health Programme is mainly Malathion 25% wp in areas where mosquitoes are resistant to BHC and DDT. However, in general the reliance on insecticides is to be replaced by safer bio-environmental methods and by encouraging the community to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes through education, example and deterrent measures where necessary.

(c) As per the Environment Assessment Report submitted by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, per capital cost for indoor residual spray with Malathion per annum is Rs. 36.12 as against Rs. 8.97 for BHC at the prices prevailing in 1996.

(d) and (e) BHC is a decentralised item to be procured mainly by the States. Intensive stratification of areas is being undertaken to reduce the use of spraying insecticides. Safer methods like use of larvivorous fish and medicated bet-nets are being tried out so that dependence on chemical larvicides reduces. It is too early to say what the substitution costs would be as this would depend on the efficacy of all the alternative strategies which are at various states of trial. In view of the potential hazards in the use of BHC, the extra costs spent on alternatives are justified.

T-72 Ajeya Tank

3466. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total allocations made for the T-72 (Ajeya) Tank project;

(b) whether there had been over-procurement of raw materials intentioned for the tanks;

(c) if so, the total number of machines/raw materials lying idle causing the exchequer huge loss of money;

(d) whether a large quantity of machines and raw materials failed to meet the quality standards;

(e) if so, whether quality control requirements have been ignored while placing the orders;

(f) if so, the estimated loss due to the machines not being put to use resulting in pilferage, etc.;

(g) whether the Government propose to appoint a high-level committee to unearth these large scale losses to the exchequer due to mismanagement; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The allocation is Rs. 412.25 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) and (h) No, Sir. Do not arise in view of (b) to (f) above.

[Translation]

Ground Water Level

3467. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any scheme to the Union Government for increasing the ground water level; and

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal for providing financial assistance for the project prepared by them for ground water recharge in six Districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 3257.39 lakh. In addition, a scheme on Bolana Percolation Tank in Khandwa Distt. has also been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The State Government have been inform that the Government of India have prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Assisting the States in Ground Water Recharge on pilot basis. The Scheme is still at consultation stage. Financial assistance for some of the projects of the State Government can be considered after the Scheme is approved.

Planetariums

3468. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of planetariums set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposed to set up any planetarium in Giridih, Kodarma and Hazaribag districts of South Bihar;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), an autonomous scientific organisation with Department of Culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up two mediumsize Planetaria in the country-one at Calicut and other at Nagpur attached to Science Centres in those places. In addition to these two Planetaria, the NCSM has also developed and distributed in-house small portable planetaria for astronomy education in different parts of the country.

Besides, Planetaria are also set up in different places by State Governments and Private Organisations, details of which are not maintained by NCSM.

(b) No proposal to set up any Planetaria in these districts of Bihar has been received by National Council of Science Museums.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Funds from Chavara Bridge to Kollam Bypass

3469. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Government of Kerala to utilise Rs. Two Crores, which are existing for Chavara bridge, for the construction of Kollam Bypass, Phase-II;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to accord permission for the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the work is likely to be commenced on the said project?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to financial Constraints, the work of construction of Kollam Bypass Phase-II could not be included in the Annual Plan 1996-97.

- (c) Does not arise.

Port at Narsapur in A.P.

3470. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop a rice/grain port at Narsapur in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether his Ministry has discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture the proposal for a rice port regarding its viability; and

- (c) if so, the capital outlay involved and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Central Government is not developing a rice/grain port at Narsapur in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The viability of a rice port at Narsapur has not been discussed with the Ministry of Agriculture.

- (c) Does not arise.

Engineering College/University in West Bengal

3471. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal had requested for opening of new engineering college/ Central university; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) Neither the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) nor the University Grants Commission (UGC) has received any proposal from Government of West Bengal for opening any new Engineering College/Central University.

Withdrawal of Brigade

3472. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army has decided to withdraw the Ninth Independent Brigade from the Barahoti Plains bordering China; and

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) Movement of Army units are decided based on operational requirements. These do not affect operational preparedness.

Increase in Defence Allocations

3473. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Airforce has sought increased allocation of funds in order to counter the large allocation for defence made by Pakistan; and